

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **NEW MEXICO**, approximately **81,000** children live in food-insecure households, jeopardizing their health and well-being.¹

School meal programs combat food insecurity by providing millions of children with the nutrition they need to learn and thrive.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is an option within the school meal programs that increases students' access to nutritious food by allowing schools and school districts serving large numbers of children from families with low incomes to offer meals at no charge to all students.

How CEP Schools Are Reimbursed

Rather than relying on school meal applications to determine a school's federal reimbursements, CEP schools are reimbursed based on the share of students who are automatically eligible for free school meals without an application because they meet specific criteria, such as being in foster care or participating in certain federal means-tested programs, including SNAP. Schools can adopt CEP if at least 25 percent of students meet these criteria. The more students who are automatically eligible for free school meals, the more federal reimbursement CEP schools receive.

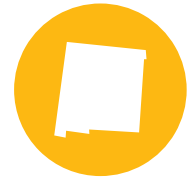
CEP Is a Win for Students, Families, and Schools

CEP provides all students access to the balanced school breakfasts and lunches they need to be well-nourished and ready to learn, while reducing the stigma often present in school cafeterias when schools have to track students' eligibility for free, reduced-price, and paid meals.

When students have access to free meals at school, families have lower grocery bills and more money in their household budgets to help make ends meet.

CEP makes school meal operations more efficient and effective for schools and districts. CEP eliminates the administrative burden associated with school meal applications, strengthens program integrity, and supports school nutrition finances by eliminating school meal debt and increasing participation in school breakfast and lunch programs, which allows for economies of scale.

In the 2024–2025 school year, 74 percent of eligible schools nationwide adopted CEP. These 54,000 schools reached more than 27 million students around the country.



In the 2024–2025 school year:

857 SCHOOLS

in **NEW MEXICO** adopted CEP. An additional **2** schools were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) CUTS

recently enacted in H.R. 1 will **exacerbate food insecurity** and have ripple effects for the school meal programs, including threatening schools' ability to implement CEP.

As children lose access to SNAP, their automatic eligibility for free school meals is severed and federal reimbursement for meals served in CEP schools decreases, jeopardizing the program's financial viability.

In **NEW MEXICO**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



205,225

children ate a school lunch and **142,013** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



200

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **2** school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



285,778

children attended schools that adopted CEP.

By repealing SNAP cuts and investing in CEP, policymakers can reduce barriers that keep eligible children from receiving free school meals and help families afford to put food on the table.

¹ Analysis of 2022–2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement, rounded to the nearest 1,000. The data for this analysis was pooled across multiple years to ensure adequate sample sizes for every state. As a result, cross-state comparisons using multiple fact sheets may cover different time periods.

² Average daily participation data for school breakfast and lunch are reflective of April 2025. U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. (2025). State-level table current activity. Accessed September 24, 2025. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/child-nutrition-tables>

The following table identifies the school districts in each of **NEW MEXICO'S** congressional districts that contain CEP-eligible and participating schools, as well as the number of children enrolled in CEP schools for the 2024–2025 school year.³

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
Congressional District #1			
ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	137	137	62,657
BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	10	10	3,518
BERNALILLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	2,696
CAPITAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	444
CARRIZOZO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	166
CLOUDCROFT MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	2	2	300
CORONA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	1	1	49
ELIDA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	2	2	169
ESTANCIA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	4	4	571
FORT SUMNER MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	283
HONDO VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	127
JEMEZ VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	314
LOS LUNAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15	15	7,998
MORIARTY-EDGEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	7	2,329
MOUNTAINAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	194
RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	19	19	15,834
ROSWELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	22	22	9,214
RUIDOSO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	4	4	1,739
SANTA ROSA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	5	5	584
TULAROSA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	4	4	931
VAUGHN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	2	2	49
Congressional District #2			
ALAMOGORDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	14	14	5,306
ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	137	137	62,657
ANIMAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	165

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
ARTESIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	3,695
BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	10	10	3,518
CARLSBAD MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	12	12	3,240
CARRIZOZO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	166
CLOUDCROFT MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	2	2	300
COBRE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS DISTRICT	6	6	955
CORONA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	1	1	49
DEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	13	5,121
EUNICE MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	924
GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	26	26	12,042
GALLUP MCKINLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS	32	32	10,835
GRANTS CIBOLA COUNTY SCHOOLS	12	12	2,652
HATCH VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,153
HOBBS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	18	18	10,130
JAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	687
LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS	39	39	22,368
LORDSBURG MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	338
LOS LUNAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15	15	7,998
LOVING MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	669
LOVINGTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	9	9	3,130
MAGDALENA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	293
MOUNTAINAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	194
QUEMADO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	3	3	184
RESERVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	89
SILVER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	9	9	2,122
SOCORRO CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	6	6	1,318

(continued)

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³ Food Research & Action Center. (2025). Community Eligibility Provision database for the 2024–2025 school year. <https://frac.org/community-eligibility-database/>. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Common core of data for the 2023–2024 school year. <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/files.asp>; and NCES. School district geographic relationship files for the 119th Congress. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/geographic/relationshipfiles>

The following table identifies the school districts in each of **NEW MEXICO'S** congressional districts that contain CEP-eligible and participating schools, as well as the number of children enrolled in CEP schools for the 2024–2025 school year.³

(continued)

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	4	4	1,095
TULAROSA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	4	4	931
ZUNI PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	1,053
Congressional District #3			
ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	137	137	62,657
ARTESIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	3,695
AZTEC MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	7	7	2,435
BERNALILLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	2,696
BLOOMFIELD SCHOOLS	7	7	2,461
CENTRAL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	15	15	4,675
CHAMA VALLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	3	3	315
CIMARRON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	6	6	361
CLAYTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	4	4	399
CLOVIS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	16	16	7,027
CUBA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	3	3	730
DES MOINES MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	1	0	
DEXTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	3	3	804
DORA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	2	2	219
DULCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	3	3	549
ELIDA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	2	2	169
ESPANOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	13	2,079
FARMINGTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	20	20	10,905
FLOYD MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	269
GALLUP MCKINLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS	32	32	10,835
GRADY MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	182
HAGERMAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	369

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
HOBBS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	18	18	10,130
HOUSE MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	70
JEMEZ MOUNTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	175
JEMEZ VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	314
LAKE ARTHUR MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	128
LAS VEGAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,120
LOGAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	239
LOVINGTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	9	9	3,130
MAXWELL MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	97
MELROSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	288
MESA VISTA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	4	4	256
MORA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	8	8	526
MORIARTY-EDGEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	7	2,329
MOSQUERO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	2	2	84
PECOS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	3	3	451
PENASCO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	3	3	275
POJOAQUE VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,539
PORTALES MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	6	6	2,549
QUESTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	4	4	320
RATON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	812
RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	19	19	15,834
ROSWELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	22	22	9,214
ROY MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	2	2	75
SAN JON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	124
SANTA FE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	29	29	11,588
SANTA ROSA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	5	5	584

(continued)

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³ Food Research & Action Center. (2025). Community Eligibility Provision database for the 2024–2025 school year. <https://frac.org/community-eligibility-database/>. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Common core of data for the 2023–2024 school year. <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/files.asp>; and NCES. School district geographic relationship files for the 119th Congress. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/geographic/relationshipfiles>

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(continued)

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SPRINGER MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	114
TAOS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	6	6	1,816
TATUM MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	318
TEXICO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	3	3	610
TUCUMCARI PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	876
WAGON MOUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	72
WEST LAS VEGAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	11	11	1,566
ZUNI PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	1,053
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
21ST CENTURY PUBLIC ACADEMY	1	1	371
ACE LEADERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	259
ACES TECHNICAL CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	145
ALAMO NAVAJO SCHOOL	1	1	342
ALBUQUERQUE BILINGUAL ACADEMY	1	1	402
ALBUQUERQUE COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	186
ALBUQUERQUE SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE	1	1	891
ALBUQUERQUE SIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMY	1	1	145
ALBUQUERQUE TALENT DEVELOPMENT CHARTER	1	1	128
ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER	1	1	189
ALICE KING COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	398
ALMA D'ARTE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	119
AMY BIEHL CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	193
ANANSI CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	196
BACA/DLOAY AZHI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	236
BECLABITO DAY SCHOOL	1	1	32

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
BORREGO PASS SCHOOL - DIBE YAZHI HABLIN OLTA	1	1	78
BREAD SPRINGS DAY SCHOOL	1	1	85
CESAR CHAVEZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	175
CHICHILTAH JONES RANCH COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	81
CHOOSHGAI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	205
CHRISTINE DUNCANS HERITAGE ACADEMY	1	1	422
CIENT AGUAS INTERNATIONAL	1	1	410
CORAL COMMUNITY CHARTER	1	1	236
CORRALES INTERNATIONAL	1	1	246
CROWNPOINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL TIISTIOOZIBOLTA	1	1	263
DEAP	1	1	34
DREAM DINE	1	1	36
DZILTH NA O DITH HLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	151
EL CAMINO REAL ACADEMY	1	1	122
EXPLORE ACADEMY LAS CRUCES	1	1	295
GALLUP CATHOLIC SCHOOL	1	1	56
GILBERT L SENA CHARTER HS	1	1	193
GORDON BERNELL CHARTER	1	1	147
HAAK'U COMMUNITY ACADEMY	1	1	347
HEALTH LEADERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	217
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL	1	1	32
HORIZON ACADEMY WEST	1	1	487
HOZHO ACADEMY	1	1	667
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AT MESA DEL SOL	1	1	329
ISLETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	1	90
J PAUL TAYLOR ACADEMY	1	1	200

(continued)

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(continued)

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
JEFFERSON MONTESSORI ACADEMY	1	1	244
JEMEZ DAY SCHOOL	1	1	132
KAWAIKA LAGUNA SCHOOLS	2	2	206
KHAPO COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	105
LA ACADEMIA DE ESPERANZA	1	1	248
LA ACADEMIA DOLORES HUERTA	1	1	86
LAKE VALLEY NAVAJO SCHOOL	1	1	35
LAS MONTANAS CHARTER	1	1	193
LOS PUENTES CHARTER	1	1	58
MARIANO LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	120
MARK ARMIJO ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	218
MCCURDY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	542
MEDIA ARTS COLLABORATIVE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	134
MESCALERO APACHE SCHOOL	1	1	682
MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL CHARTER - GALLUP	1	1	150
MISSION ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS	2	2	2,194
MONTE DEL SOL CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	343
MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	221
NA'NEELZHIIN JI OLTA	1	1	144
NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY	1	1	420
NAVAJO PREPARATORY SCHOOL INC	1	1	282
NENAHNEZAD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	110
NEW AMERICA SCHOOL - LAS CRUCES	1	1	156
NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	1	1	147
NORTH VALLEY ACADEMY	1	1	264
OHKAY OWINGEH COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	100

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
OJO ENCINO DAY SCHOOL	1	1	48
PINE HILLS RAMAH NAVAJO SCHOOL BOARD	1	1	339
PUBLIC ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS	1	1	435
PUEBLO PINTADO SCHOOL	1	1	101
RAICES DEL SABER XINACHTLI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	121
RED RIVER VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	83
RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS	1	1	137
ROBERT F. KENNEDY CHARTER	1	1	304
SAINT ANTHONY ZUNI INDIAN SCHOOL	1	1	116
SAINT BONAVENTURE SCHOOL	1	1	107
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI-LUMBERTON	1	1	65
SAINT JOSEPH MISSION SCHOOL	1	1	36
SAINT TERESA AVILA SCHOOL	1	1	88
SAN DIEGO RIVERSIDE SCHOOL	1	1	55
SAN FELIPE DE NERI	1	1	12
SAN FELIPE PUEBLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	1	256
SAN ILDEFONSO DAY SCHOOL	1	1	31
SANDOVAL ACADEMY OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION	1	1	225
SANOSTEE DAY SCHOOL	1	1	34
SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL	1	1	659
SCHOOL OF DREAMS	1	1	542
SHIPROCK ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS INC	2	2	276
SIEMBRA LEADERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	410
SIX DIRECTIONS INDIGENOUS SCHOOL	1	1	70
SOLARE COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	303
SOUTH VALLEY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	

(continued)

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SOUTH VALLEY PREPARATORY SCHOOL	1	1	147
TAOS DAY SCHOOL	1	1	88
TAOS INTEGRATED SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS	1	1	204
TAOS INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	177
TAOS MUNICIPAL CHARTER	1	1	209
TE TSU GEH OWEENGE DAY SCHOOL	1	1	35
TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	311
THE NEW AMERICA SCHOOL	1	1	159
THRIVE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	240
TIERRA ADENTRO	1	1	239
TO HAJIILEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	562
TOHAALI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	216
TSE II AHI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	71
TSIYA DAY SCHOOL	1	1	40
TURQUOISE TRAIL CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	649
VISTA GRANDE HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	64
VOZ COLLEGIATE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	84
WALATOWA CHARTER HIGH	1	1	40
WINGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	1	423
WINGATE HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	UNKNOWN

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